(v) organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, Indian Carpet Expo and Handloom Expo in the country;

(vi) conducting of workshop-seminars at important production centres;

(c) No State-wise allocation of funds is made in the handicrafts and handloom sectors. However the amount released under various schemes to the State of Gujarat during the Eighth Plan are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1992-93	24.33	165.03	189.36
1993-94	96.38	406.75	503.13
1994-95 (upto Dec. '94)	54.77	22.63	077.40

Essar Group of Companies

*38. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Essar Group of Companies imported second hand 'on-shore rig' under DEEC scheme which is open only to new equipments/machinery in contravention of Section 113(1) of the Customs Act; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said on-shore rig was manufactured by Magdalla Shipping Yard, Surat at all;

(c) whether the goods so imported were actually an on-shore rig or merely scrap;

(d) whether the goods were grossly over-valued with a motive to take higher benefits under DEEC scheme;

(e) whether there was a contract with the German importer, which normally is not permitted; and

(f) whether the documents submitted for obtaining Advance Licences were in conformity with the normal rules; and if not, what action has been taken/initiated for viloation of the Foreign Trade (D and R) Act, 1992, and the Customs Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY) : (a) to (f) No case of import of second hand "on-shore rig" by Essar Group of Companies under DEEC Scheme has been noticed. However, M/s. Essar World Trade Limited filed a Shipping Bill dated 22nd June, 1993 in Customs House, Bombay for export of one on-shore rig in knocked down condition provisionally under DEEC Scheme. Since it was noticed that the said on-shore rig was used one export under DEEC Scheme was disallowed. However, export was allowed under a Free Shipping Bill by the Additional Collector of Customs as it was observed by him that the invoice produced by the exporter at the time of export and verified by the Customs Appraiser had declared the goods to be used. The consignee as per Shipping Bill was M/s. Trans Energy Limited, St. Peter Port, Germany CI. As exports were permitted under Free Shipping Bill and export goods are not dutiable the valuation aspect was not examined. Since there did not appear to be any violation of provisions of Section 113(1) of the Customs Act, no case was registered in the Customs House.

Reports received indicate that Magdalla Shipping Yard (Pvt) Ltd. Surat assembled an oil rig and supplied to ESSAR Investments Ltd., in 1990.

M/s. Essar World Trade Limited, Bombay had filed an application on 21st June, 1993 with the office of the Director General, Foreign Trade for grant of Value Based Advance Licence for CIF value of Rs. 14,81,66,000/- for import of components for execution of an order for export of one number on-shore rig for a f.o.b. value of Rs. 20,36,47,500/-. The export order dated 9th May, 1993 was from Trans Energy Limited, St. Peter Port, Gurnsoy CI. The consignee was mentioned as Arab Drilling Workover Co., Libya and supporting manufacturer was mentioned at M/s. Magadala Shipyard Pvt. Ltd., Surat There was no mention whether rig to be exported was used/second hand. The application was considered by the Advance Licensing Committee in the Directorate General, Foreign Trade on 6th July, 1993 and was rejected since there was no Standard Input-Output and Value Addition Norms for the resultant product "on-shore rig" fixed by then. The decision of the Committee was conveyed to the firms on 30th July, 1993. Since the application was rejected, there was no point on which action was warranted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

Fifth Pay Commission

*39. DR SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has issued an elaborate Questionnaire to elicit replies and information from the various sections of the society.

(b) if so, to what category of persons have these Questionnaires been sent;

(c) what is the total number of Questionnaires sent;

(d) how many replies have been received by the Commission;

(e) to how many Members of Parliament were the Questionnaire sent;

(f) how many M.Ps. have sent back the replies;

(g) whether some of the questions were unnecessary; and

(h) in what manner will the replies be analysed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d). The Fifth Pay Commission have issued a Questionnaire to 5746 persons from different walks of life like Members of Parliament, Chief Ministers, Governors and Chief Secretaries of States, Civil Servants, Professionals, Employees associations, Chairmen of Public Sector Units, Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of Private corporations, etc. So far, 1010 replies have been received by the Commission.

(e) and (f). The Questionnaire was sent to 768 Members of Parliament, of whom, 12 have responded.

(g) The Commission have informed that none of the Questions is unenecessary

(h) The Commission have put in place an elaborate system for consolidating the views, information and data contained in the replies. This will be made use of in formulating issues and finalising recommendations of the Commission.

विदेशी मुद्रा का लेन-देन करने वाले बैंक

*40. **श्री गोविन्द राव आदिक**: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करें कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में विदेशी मुद्रा में लेन-देन करने वाले बैंकों की संख्या बहुत कम है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार भविष्य में ऐसी शाखाओं की संख्या को बढ़ाने संबंधी